

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 /079 W

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R 220930Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7364

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

USUN NEW YORK 4005

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY COLOMBLO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 1195

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SN, CD

SUBJECT: IENG SARY ARRIVES IN SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 899

1. CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER
IENG SARY AND HIS PARTY ARRIVED IN SINGAPORE IN THE EARLY
EVENING OF MARCH 21. SARY'S PARTY INCLUDED: SAM SAN,
DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS; THIOUNN PRASITH, DIRECTOR
OF THE ASIAN DEPARTMENT; SOU MIT, DIRECTOR OF THE ORGANIZATION
DEPARTMENT; SEI LA, CHIEF OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA SECTION, AND
ONE CHHEAN, IDENTIFIED IN THE PRESS ONLY AS AN AIDE.

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2. THEY WERE RECEIVED BY SINGAPORE'S FOREIGN MINISTER
RAJARATNAM AND AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF HIGH
LEVEL GOS FUNCTIONARIES, INCLUDING: SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE
(FOREIGN AFFAIRS) LEE KHOON CHOY, MFA'S PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
ONG SOO CHUAN, ITS PERMANENT SECRETARY CHIA CHEONG FOOK, MPS
P. SELVADURAI, J.F. CONCEICAO, AND LAU TEIK SOON, AND MFA DIRECTOR

OF PROTOCOL V. K. RAJAN. EVENT IS GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE IN MARCH 22 STRAITS TIMES (ST) WHICH FEATURED PHOTOGRAPH OF RAJA, SARY AND SAM SAN IN ANIMATED CONVERSATION.

3. BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR KUALA LUMPUR ON MARCH 24, SARY IS SCHEDULED TO PAY A COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT SHEARES AND MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW, FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM, AND MINISTER FOR CULTURE AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JEK TEUN THONG. VISITS TO THE JURONG TOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK AND THE HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INCLUDING A TOUR OF NEW TOWN AT TOA PAYOH, ARE ALSO FORESEEN FOR THE CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS.

3. MARCH 22 EDITORIAL IN THE GOVERNMENT-INVLUENCED ST VOICES THE HOPE THAT SARY'S VISIT, IN RESPONSE TO RAJA'S INVITATION, MAY MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE RESUMPTION OF NORMAL TIES. (FIY. RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1976 BUT EMBASSIES WERE NOT OPENED.) EDITORIAL JUXTAPOSES PHNOM PENH'S "DECLARATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP TO ALL" WITH RECENT "WANTON KILLINGS" BY KHMER ROUGE IN THAILAND. ALSO DISCONCERTING, ACCORDING TO ST, IS REPORTED CAMBODIAN AID TO COMMUNIST INSURGENTS IN THAILAND. AFTER RELATING HISTORY OF "GOOD AND CORDIAL" SINGAPORE-CAMBODIA TIES, ST OPINES THAT RESTORATION OF CLOSE RELATIONS WHICH EXISTED PREVIOUSLY IS "IMMATERIAL." HOWEVER SARY DOES HAVE "SCOPE FOR RE-NEWING THE BONDS... BY SETTING OUR HEARTS AT EASE OVER THE SUSPICIONS THAT MANY OF US HAVE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA..." IN PERHAPS A NONE TOO SUBTLE ATTEMPT TO DRIVE A WIDGE BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM AND LAOS, ST CONCLUDES THAT "...WE FEEL HOSTILITY FROM INDOCHINA, AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE OUR FEARS PROVEN WRONG".

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HOLDRIDGE

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